

CONFIDENTIAL

39756 - 2

GCS

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 041530Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1875 OF 4 DECEMBER

CALL BY JUDGE CLARK

CENTRAL AMERICA

*h-a.
VRL 8/12*

1. CLARK SPOKE SEPARATELY TO ME AND TO THE LPS ABOUT CENTRAL AMERICA.

2. HE WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE UN RESOLUTION ON EL SALVADOR DRAFTED BY THE MEXICANS, FRENCH AND OTHERS. I SAID THAT I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE FRENCH HAD EMBROILED THEMSELVES IN THIS ISSUE, ORIGINALLY WITH THE JOINT FRANCO-MEXICAN STATEMENT AND NOW IN THE RESOLUTION. CLARK SAID THAT HE WOULD BE COMPLAINING TO THE IRISH ABOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION. HE THOUGHT THE MEXICANS WERE NOW A BIT EMBARRASSED ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, AND THERE WAS SOME INDICATION THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PUSHED.

NICARAGUA

3. CLARK SAID THAT THERE WAS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT CUBAN ADVISERS IN NICARAGUA WERE NOW BEING REPLACED BY RUSSIANS. THIRTY TO FORTY NICARAGUAN PILOTS HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TRAINING IN BULGARIA. NICARAGUAN SECURITY FORCES HAD RECENTLY BEEN INCREASED FROM 15,000 TO 50,000. THE ADMINISTRATION INTERPRETED DEVELOPMENTS IN NICARAGUA AS A CONSCIOUS SOVIET TEST OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S RESOLVE IN THE AREA. THEY HAD THEREFORE DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION IN RESPONSE, THOUGH THEY WOULD CONSULT US BEFORE MOVING. THE POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION WERE NOT WITHOUT MILITARY OPTIONS SUCH AS INTERDICTION. THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF ARGENTIAN, COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN HELP ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT. THERE WAS NO WAY THE ADMINISTRATION COULD SIT BACK FOR MUCH LONGER.

EL SALVADOR

4. CLARK SAID THAT THEY HAD THEIR HANDS SOMEWHAT TIED BY HAVING ONLY FIFTY TWO ADVISERS IN EL SALVADOR AND THE US WAS NOT WINNING. THE REAL STORY ABOUT EL SALVADOR WAS NOT GETTING OUT AND THERE WAS A NEED FOR CONSTANT OBSERVATION AND MORE REPORTING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

39756 - 2

A SOLUTION WOULD ONLY COME THROUGH THE POLITICAL PROCESS WHICH THE FAR LEFT WOULD NOT ALLOW.

5. EAGLEBURGER SAID SEPARATELY TO BULLARD THAT A COMPLETE STUDY WOULD SHORTLY BE SUBMITTED BY HAIG TO THE PRESIDENT OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS AGAINST CUBA OR AGAINST CUBAN ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS CONVINCED THAT HE MUST MOVE TO DECIDE AMONG THE OPTIONS. DECISIONS WERE LIKELY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, BUT THEIR NATURE COULD NOT YET BE FORESEEN.

6. EAGLEBURGER ADDED THAT PATIENCE WAS WEARING THIN IN WASHINGTON AND US POLICY WAS IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY. IT WAS PROVING IMPOSSIBLE TO RETURN EL SALVADOR TO STABILITY. YET, AS THE CONFLICT CONTINUED, DUARTE MIGHT BE DRIVEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE FAR RIGHT.

CARRINGTON

NNNN

DIST

LIMITED

MCAD

PLANNING STAFF (MR MALLABY)

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

SIR A ACLAND

MR BULLARD

MR DAY

MR URE